

Lewis, Fulton Jr.

CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM (CONFIDENTIAL)

WASHINGTON OFFICE

CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM

December 16, 1957

FULL TEXT

Fulton Lewis, Jr. at 7:00 P.M. over WGMS (Washington)
and Mutual Network:

LEWIS: "Tonight, ladies and gentlemen, I want to begin for you a series of reports on a very important subject, involving an operation that calls itself the Free Europe Committee, into which I have been conducting a personal investigative job for you for some months past. It has been a very time-consuming and perhaps more difficult story than I have ever undertaken because of the road blocks that have been thrown in my way and the attempts that have been made to bring influence to bear through various powerful sources.

"During the course of these investigations, I have made casual reference to the subject with you from time to time, but tonight begins the overall comprehensive story. I think you'll find it as important a story as we ever tackled, because it has to do with America's foreign policy toward the people behind the Iron Curtain, the future of those people so far as liberation is concerned.

"I think also that you'll find it a very shocking story in many particulars, because of the things that have gone on and are going on under the guise of carrying the message of freedom to the people behind the Iron Curtain. As it turns out, it is not a message of freedom, but a message of socialism or nationalist-communism, if you will, Tito communism and Gomulka communism, any communism that purports to be independent of the Kremlin brand of communism, whether it really is or not.

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"A number of people who have worked on this Free Europe propaganda program have defected and have fled back to the communist countries from which they purported to have escaped, suggesting that they never did escape at all, but rather were agents of the communist government concerned, planted in the operation for espionage purposes.

"I have a so-called guidance, or directive, issued by the organization to its editors and general personnel, the authenticity of which the organization attempts to deny, but which I am prepared to prove by a number of witnesses who were in the organization in March of 1958 when it was issued, which instructs personnel to go easy on any criticism of communism or communists as such, and to play up Tito as a great national hero who has saved his country from foreign barbarians.

"I have personal records on many of the propaganda planners and broadcasters, plus the directing and administrative staffs in New York, showing who these people are, who they were before they were taken into this organization, what their experience is, or lack of it, and from their writing and speeches, what they believe in and what they are telling the people they reach.

"It's a story of original good intentions in an operation that could have been immensely constructive, had it been operated by sound and legitimate heads, but which has become so remote at the operational level from those who sponsor it and stand responsible to the public for it, at the top level, as to be a travesty.

"Without introduction, let's proceed with the story. The origin of all this was back in the late forties, 1949, to be exact, when the Crusade For Freedom was set up, under the sponsorship of then-General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mr. Allen Dulles, Ambassador Joseph C. Grew, John Hughes, Arthur Paige and others of similar character. I'm quoting their own literature, in this case, a letter signed by Mr. Gwilym A. Price, the head of the Westinghouse Corporation, who is presently chairman of the board of the Crusade For Freedom.

"The letter says that all of these men have maintained the closest interest in the operations, and that's a direct quotation. From personal inquiries that I have made and will go into more detail about later, it does not seem to be fact. Obviously Mr. President Eisenhower is not in any position with all that he has to do to maintain the closest interest in the operations, as they say, at the real operational level, and in fact, of course, he does not.

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"Mr. Allen Dulles is not able to do so either, except through the medium of his Central Intelligence Agency, and inasmuch as that agency, the CIA, is generally reported to have a major finger in the pie, that is hardly a reliable check either. Any check by the CIA would be the CIA checking on itself, in effect, which certainly is not the objective.

"Ambassador Joe Grew is almost 80 years old and in failing health. Obviously he is not able to maintain a continuous observation on what the organization is doing, what it's putting out in the way of propaganda.

"The purport of this claim is that because these men organized the Crusade For Freedom originally back in 1949, and because they are men of high reputation and distinction, the actual operation that evolved from their original concept must be good. That is just the point of this story. It does not follow at all, and a moment's reflection by anyone with any experience in life will corroborate that fact.

"The truth is that Crusade For Freedom does not conduct those propaganda operations itself at all. It is purely a fund-raising operation to finance the actual operations which it--and it raises the funds in an annual campaign for Truth Dollars, which you probably have heard promoted in public service announcements over the radio and television, and through other media.

"The Crusade has a state chairman in every state, and the main drive for Truth Dollars is done through newspaper delivery boys, which is a commendable scheme of operation. Let me emphasize the fact that the profit or deposit of the Free Europe operation should not reflect in any way on the newspapers or the news boys, who provide their services to this end. They have every reason to believe that the contributions they solicit are being used as the slogan says, to fight communism with truth. Now, I'll have more news for you in just half a minute.

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"Now, the peculiar part of this fund-collecting proposition is that every year, this Crusade For Freedom finances a junket of prominent people to Munich, where the Free Europe operation has its European headquarters, to inspect the operations there and elsewhere, with a stopover in Paris on the return trip.

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"I have a mimeographed list before me, which says Crusade For Freedom, Radio Free Europe Munich inspection trip, October 11 through 21--please note that that is ten days--1957; partial passenger list. And here are some of the names: H. Park Arnold, Kiwanis International, Glendale, California; Ohio state chairman Kenyon G. Bolton, Cleveland, Ohio; William G. Brundor, of Wisconsin National Bank in Milwaukee, also a state chairman; the Honorable George Christopher, Mayor of San Francisco; George C. Cornelius, president of the American Heritage Foundation; William P. Crowell, president of the Key Club International, Dallas, Texas; Weston Fancul, President of the Bell Aircraft Corporation--he is New York State chairman; Carl P. Feltner, president of the United Brewery Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Cincinnati; I. W. Garrick, vice-president of the B'nai B'rith; Wilford P. Gillin, president of the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, state chairman.

"John S. Gleason, Jr., National Commander of the American Legion; Mrs. Ray (Ruby) Godbey, national president of the ladies' auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Indiana state chairman Robert B. Jackson, president of Pilgrim Life Insurance Company; Mrs. J. Pat Kelly, national president of the American Legion Auxiliary; R. Brent Kerr, North Carolina state chairman, senior vice-president of the American Trust Company in Charlotte; Walter K. Coko, president of the Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company--he is state vice-chairman in Denver; Carl (Cochian?), vice-president and general manager of the Georgia Lockheed Aircraft Corporation and Georgia State chairman; John Loydon, executive vice-president of the Ted Bates Company, volunteer advertising agency in New York.

"Donald H. McGannon, president of the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company, Inc., in New York; Lamar W. McLeod, vice-president, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Missouri, state chairman; Mrs. Robert H. Mahoney, president of the National Council of Catholic Women, Hartford, Connecticut; Mrs. William P. (Vivian) Mason, national president of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., Washington, D. C.; H. Bruce Palmer, president, Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, and New Jersey state chairman; Mrs. R. I. C. (Mabel) Prout, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; Robert K. Richards, public relations counsel for the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters; Richard L. Roudobush, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; William Shoppard, vice-president of the Arkansas Power & Light Company, state chairman; Dudley L. Simon, first vice-president, Lions International, Charleston, West Virginia.

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"Herman W. Steinkraus, Connecticut Vice-president and president of the Bridgeport Brass Company; and E. H. Will, president of the Virginia Electric Power Company and state chairman, Richmond, Virginia.

"Now, I have read you this list in full, so as to avoid any possible accusation of having selected some names and omitting others, the importance of the list being that it comes from the Crusade For Freedom itself, provides an authentic example of the people who are selected for these junkets. I question the propriety of using Truth Dollars for ~~any such~~ project, and I have the following explanations from the Crusade itself. These are direct quotes:

"Radio Free Europe welcomes inspection by all responsible people, which is why each year the Crusade sponsors a trip to view the operation for 60 top American opinion leaders; also, no part of the Crusade For Freedom collections go towards the Munich trip. All contributions to the Crusade to the penny are turned over to the Free Europe Committee. The cost of the trip is figured into the annual budget of the Crusade For Freedom, paid by private sources. The trip does not spend four days in Paris. The group arrives Friday afternoon, spends most of Saturday at a top level briefing at SHAPE headquarters and takes off for New York on Sunday. The expl--that's the end of the quote. The explanation about the financing of the trip may interest you. The fact is, of course, this is hair-splitting as between Truth Dollar contributions and other contributions. If the trip were eliminated, that much money would be saved for the Free Europe operation, and which pocket it comes out of means nothing.

"I'll have more news for you now in just one minute.

"There were 50 persons in all on this year's junket, and the Crusade says all expenses were not paid. They say, quote, group members pay for expenses and all meals other than official dinners and lunches. In the case of William G. Brunker, chairman of the Wisconsin National Bank, he paid all his own expenses and did not take the trip on the chartered plane in either direction. In any case, no contributions are used to finance any portions of the trip, unquote. This, after just having told what portions of the junket the Crusade does finance. Apparently, Mr. Brunker felt some uneasiness about accepting the trip. That's the top of the news as it looks from here."